(*b*) whether this is a hard and fast rule which cannot be relaxed in any circumstances; and

(*c*) what are the orders of Government as to how cases where, though the number of houses fall below the prescribed limit, there is real need for drinking water-supply are to be dealt with?

520 540—

A.—(*a*) No.

(*b*) & (*c*) Do not arise.

Agriculture

Outbreak of a new disease affecting the potato tubers.

* 521 *Q*.—Rao Sahib V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI: Will the hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government are aware that there has been increased crop of potatoes on the Nilgiris during this year raised with the fertilizers and that large amounts of potatoes had to be thrown out as they were diseased;

(*b*) whether they propose to make enquiries as to the nature of the disease in the potato tubers and how to eradicate the same;

(*c*) how long the Nanjanad seed farm has been working and what the quantities are of seed raised during the past five years;

(*d*) whether the farm had any disease prevalent in its fields and what action was taken to remedy the same;

(*e*) whether the Government will be pleased to publish the experiments carried out and results obtained in a booklet for the information of the ryots interested in this crop; and

(*f*) whether the Director of Agriculture visited the seed farm during the past six months and what his impressions are as to the public utility of the seed farm?

A.—(*a*) The Government understand that artificial fertilizers are being increasingly used in the cultivation of potatoes on the Nilgiris. If the fertilizers are not properly balanced in regard to nitrogen, phosphate and potash, the crop may be affected by disease.

(*b*) Samples of diseased potatoes are sent to the Government Mycologist as and when found. The main diseases diagnosed are—

(1) Ring disease
(2) Fusarium species } on tubers.
(3) Rhizoctonia

(4) Alternaria (early blight) on leaves.

The nature of these diseases is fairly well known and advice for their prevention is being given.

(*c*) The Nanjanad farm started work in 1917. The quantity of seed raised in the past five years was 17,972 maunds.

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(*d*) The farm has experienced these diseases. The following methods have been adopted to overcome the attacks and produce healthy crops:—

(1) Rotation of crops.
(2) Destruction of diseased potatoes.
(3) Selection of disease-free and well-sprouted seed.
(4) Improved methods of cultivation.

(*e*) A Press Communiqué on the Agricultural Research Station, Nanjanad, was issued in August 1932 and was published in Part I of the *Fort St. George Gazette*, dated 30th August 1932. The question of publishing a bulletin on the experiments conducted and the results obtained is under consideration by the Director of Agriculture.

(*f*) The Director did not visit the farm this year but he visited it twice last year. He considers that the farm is doing useful work.

Public Works

Expenditure on the construction of quarters for Government servants since the Provincial contribution was fixed.

* 522 *Q.*—Mr. A. Pl. N. V. Nadimuthu Pillai: Will the hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state how much has been spent in the construction of quarters for Government servants after the Provincial contribution was fixed in 1920?

A.—A statement[a] showing divisionwar the expenditure incurred in each circle since 1920 is furnished.

Mr. P. V. Krishnayya Choudari:—"From the statement it is found that three times the amount that was set apart for the Telugu districts was given to the Tamil districts. May I ask if the Government think that the Telugu districts do not require quarters for their Government servants?"

The hon. Mr. P. T. Rajan:—"Probably the Telugu districts had quarters already."

Education

Appointment of examiners for Government Technical Examinations in Commerce.

* 523 *Q.*—Mr. G. Simhachalam Pantulu: Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Excise be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether any fixed rules are followed in the appointment of chief and assistant examiners for Government Technical Examinations in Commerce held by the Madras Government Technical Examinations Board or by the Commissioner for Government Technical Examinations; if so, what the educational and technical qualifications and the teaching experience needed are for the appointment of such examiners;

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[a] Printed as Appendix VIII on page 114 infra.